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General debate on national experience in population matters: realizing the future we want — integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda

Statement submitted by Planned Parenthood Federation of America, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

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Statement

Position paper on inclusion of universal access to sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR) in the sustainable development goals (SDGs)

Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) is pleased to submit the below statement on behalf of the National Youth Consortium on the post-2015 development agenda for the forty-eighth Session of the Commission on Population and Development on the priority theme of "Realizing the future we want: integrating population issues into sustainable development, including in the post-2015 development agenda".

We, the National Youth Consortium on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, comprising of passionate and motivated young people drawn from Network for Adolescents and Youth of Africa, (NAYA KENYA), Center for Study of Adolescence (CSA) and dance4life Kenya;

Recalling the principles proclaimed in the International Conference on Population and Development Programme of Action (ICPD PoA), which recognize sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) as core to development of any country, and recognizing the government's proclamation in the constitution that every person has a right to the highest attainable standard of health including reproductive health.

Acknowledging the efforts of the Open Working Group in drafting the 17 proposed and 169 targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), through a process co-chaired by Kenya and further acknowledging the government's efforts in providing political leadership and will in the development process including domesticating the ICPD PoA.

Invoking the letter and the progressive spirit of the ICPD PoA, the Common Africa Position Paper, Addis Ababa Declaration on Population and Development in Africa beyond 2014, the Maputo Protocol, the Ministerial Commitment on Comprehensive Sexuality Education, the African Youth Charter, the resolution of the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development among several others; recognizing sexual and reproductive health as being core to the development of any nation.

Aware that the current generation of young people is the largest one ever and recognizing that adolescents and youth in all countries are a major resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation;

Concerned that whereas young people have diverse needs, they continue to bear the brunt of reproductive health burdens with high incidences of new HIV/AIDS infections, unintended pregnancies, unsafe abortions, maternal morbidity and mortality;

Convinced that meaningful and long lasting solutions to the recurrent youth challenges cannot be solved without the meaningful participation of the young people themselves;

We propose that the SDGs include SRHR for young people as a cross-cutting theme and ensure inclusion of these vital clauses:

(1) Remove all barriers to uptake of reproductive health services by the youth, and ensure access to youth-friendly reproductive health services. The services must be in the right place, at the right time, at the right price (free where necessary) and delivered in the right style to be acceptable to young people as per the National Guidelines on Provision of Youth Friendly Services.

(2) Increase budgetary allocation to health to a minimum of 15 per cent of national budgets as per the Abuja Declaration. In line with program-based budgeting, there should also be deliberate efforts to allocate 15 per cent of the health budget to family planning and address all demand and supply oriented barriers of access to, a use of family planning as per the Maputo Plan of Action.

(3) Implement and fully fund, quality, evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education (CSE) programs that provide accurate information on human sexuality, gender equality, human rights, relationships, and sexual and reproductive health for both in- and out-of-school youth that is relevant to each specific age group. Wherever possible, make in-school CSE programs intra-curricular and examinable.

(4) Invest in data revolution, information management, research and further disaggregation of data by age, sex and other categories as the basis of empirically founded programming and planning.

(5) Embrace technological advancements to answer the double burden of old challenges and the emerging reproductive challenges facing the young people. Whereas the world has registered major leaps in reproductive technology, the government's response on issues such as assisted reproductive technology and surrogacy remains shrouded in uncertainty, not backed up by appropriate legal and policy environment and at times antagonistic.